

REMARKS

This application has been amended so as to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

The Official Action rejects claims 2-6 and 9 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Official Action identifies the language underlying the rejection in a number of claims. Applicants have amended the claims as necessary in order to eliminate the bases for this rejection, and reconsideration and withdrawal of such are therefore respectfully requested.

The Official Action rejects claims 1, 7, 8, and 10 as anticipated as follows: under 35 USC §102(e) by CLARK et al. 6,616,452; under 35 USC §102(b) by TSANG et al. 5,816,817; and under 35 USC §102(b) by PEARMAN et al. 4,545,583. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested for the following reasons:

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to additionally recite that the recognition information generating means includes a solenoid and is responsive to a control signal from the control means to energize the solenoid. Such energizing of the solenoid induces movement of the solenoid shaft to cause first and second impact elements to impact one another. In this way, the recognition information is generated to the user.

Additionally, the solenoid is recited as being the shape of a cylinder having a diameter greater than a length of the solenoid shaft measured along an axis of motion of the solenoid shaft, and the solenoid is disposed such that the axis of motion of the solenoid shaft is perpendicular to a barrel of the gun.

Each of the TSANG et al. and CLARK et al. references fails to disclose recognition information generating means such as that of amended independent claim 1, namely one that includes a solenoid that causes two elements to impact one another to inform the user that a shot has been fired. Additionally, rejected claim 7 has been amended into independent form. In addition, it now recites that the shooting means is prohibited from emitting the light ray and the recognition information generating means generates the recognition information upon detection of operation of the manipulating means by the control means while the target signal receiver has not received the target signal. In addition, claim 7 recites that the shooting means emits the light ray and the recognition information generating means generates the recognition information when the manipulating means is operated and the target signal receiver has received the target signal. This feature is also clearly undisclosed by any of the applied references.

The Official Action rejects claims 1-4 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by KOUNOE et al. 5,577,962. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested for the following reasons:

The KOUNOE et al. reference is offered for its disclosure not only of the features of original independent claim 1, but also those of dependent claims 2-4 that recite features related to the solenoid of the present invention that operates to provide the indication to the user that a shot has been fired. As discussed above in connection with the other anticipation rejections, claim 1 now recites some of the features of the solenoid of original claims 2-4. Among these is the characteristic that the solenoid, when energized, moves the solenoid shaft so as to cause first and second impact elements to impact one another.

While the KOUNOE et al. gun includes a solenoid, it does not operate, when energized, to bring any recognizable first and second impact elements into contact with one another. Instead, energizing the solenoid 20 of KOUNOE et al. causes the arm 19 to rotate about pivot point 18 to bring the projection 22b out of engagement with the recess in element 15. Additionally, the relationship between the length of the solenoid shaft and the diameter of the cylindrical solenoid is undisclosed by the KOUNOE et al. patent, as is the recitation that such solenoid is

disposed within the gun such that the axis of motion of the solenoid shaft is perpendicular to a barrel of the gun.

A number of the features of original claims 2-4 were the subject of an indefiniteness rejection considered above. In light of the modification of such language as part of its incorporation into independent claim 1, such features are now recited in such a way that it is clear that they are undisclosed by the applied KOUNOE et al. patent.

The Official Action states that claims 5, 6, and 9 are allowable but for their dependence from rejected base claims, and the bases for the indefiniteness rejections considered above. Please note that claim 5 is now in independent form through incorporation of features of original claim 1. Additionally, features of allowable claim 9 are now incorporated by amendment into claim 7, which claim is also now in independent form.

In addition to the amendments described above, applicants have added new claims 11-14. Of these, claim 11 is an independent claim from which each of claims 12-14 depend. For the reasons described above in connection with the various rejections, such new claims are also believed to be in condition for immediate allowance.

In the event that there are any questions relating to this amendment or to the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned

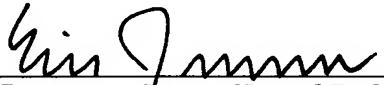
attorney concerning such questions so that the prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Please charge the fee of \$86 for the one extra independent claim added herewith to Deposit Account No. 25-0120.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. §1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON


Eric Jensen, Reg. No. 37,855
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

EJ/lrs